

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083297
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINT, UR

SUBJECT: SHIPLER ARTICLE ON DISSENT AND EMBASSY INFORMATION
POLICY

1. NEW YORK TIMES OF MARCH 31 CARRIES A DAVID SHIPLER
ARTICLE, "NOTES ON THE SOVIET UNION," WHICH IS A ROUND-UP
ON RECENT SOVIET REPRESSIVE ACTS AGAINST DISSIDENTS AND
OTHER SIGNS OF A PERIOD OF RENEWED DOMESTIC TIGHTENING UP.

2. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH FOLLOWING EXCERPT:

QUOTE: THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S PASSION FOR ORTHODOXY CAN
MAKE ITSELF FELT EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN
MOSCOW. WHENEVER THERE IS A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH OR NEWS
CONFERENCE OR STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING, THE EMBASSY PRE-
PARES EXCERPTS IN 1,100 COPIES FOR OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS,
SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND SOVIET OFFICIALS. WHILE FULL VER-
SIONS ARE SENT TO EIGHT OR NINE SELECTED RUSSIANS--AT PRAVDA
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AND IZVESTIA, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE U.S.A. INSTITUTE--
THE EXCERPTS ARE CAREFULLY EDITED BY THE AMERICANS, WHO
DELETE PASSAGES THAT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE TO THE
RUSSIANS. THIS, THEY SAY IS THE UNWRITTEN RULE UNDER WHICH
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ALLOWS THE DISTRIBUTION.

QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER'S HARD-HITTING SPEECH AT WAKE

FOREST UNIVERSITY TWO WEEKS AGO WAS CIRCULATED WITH A
FEW IMPORTANT DELETIONS, AMONG THEM THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:

"THERE ALSO HAS BEEN AN OMINOUS INCLINATION ON
THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION TO USE ITS MILITARY POWER TO
INTERVENE IN LOCAL CONFLICTS WITH ADVISERS, WITH EQUIPMENT
AND WITH FULL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR
MERCENARIES FROM OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AS WE CAN OB-
SERVE TODAY IN AFRICA." END OF QUOTE.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS, PARTICULARLY RE
REFERENCE TO WAKE FOREST SPEECH. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED
INQUIRY FROM SEN. MOYNIHAN'S OFFICE AND EXPECTS OTHERS.
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